

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-16 will be pending, of which claims 1, 14 and 15 are independent. The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies and to employ more conventional U.S. claim language. In addition, the specification has been amended to include a cross reference to the PCT parent application. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced.

It is respectfully submitted that the Application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is courteously solicited. If any questions remain, however, the Examiner is encouraged to call undersigned to expedite the prosecution of this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIXVERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIN THE SPECIFICATION:

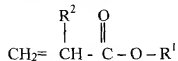
A cross-reference to the PCT parent application has been added.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 - 15 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) Halogen-free, flame-retardant composition [that comprises] comprising at least either an organic phosphorous compound (A), melamine or a compound derived from melamine (B), or a melamine-phosphorous compound (AB), [characterized in that the composition also contains] and further comprising a polymer compound (C) comprising at least one type of olefin having 2-12 carbon atoms and 0.1-30 weight % [(relative to the weight of the polymer compound)] (C) of at least one compound containing acid, acid anhydride or epoxy groups.

2. (Amended) Composition according to Claim 1, [characterized in that the] wherein the component (C) is a polymer [having a chemical composition based on] obtained by copolymerizing E, X and Y compounds, wherein E [being] is [an] ethylene [radical], X is a [radical formed from the] compound having the formula



where

R¹ = alkyl radical having 1-8 carbon atoms

R² = H, CH₃ or C₂H₅

and Y is [a radical formed from] glycidyl (alkyl)acrylate.

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3. (Amended) Composition according to Claim 1, [characterized in that the] wherein said component (C) is an ethylene/acrylic ester/glycidyl methacrylate, ethylene/acrylic ester/ maleic anhydride, ethylene/glycidyl methacrylate, ethylene/mathacrylic acid, propylene/maleic anhydride [and] or propylene/acrylic acid polymer.
4. (Amended) Composition according to Claim 3, [characterized in that] wherein said component (C) is an ethylene/acrylic ester/glycidyl methacrylate terpolymer.
5. (Amended) Composition according to Claim 4, [characterized in that] wherein said component (C) is an ethylene/methylmethacrylic ester/glycidyl methacrylate terpolymer.
6. (Amended) Composition according to Claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein said component (C) is an ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer modified with maleic anhydride.
7. (Amended) Composition according to [any one of Claims 1-6, characterized in that] Claim 1, comprising the organic phosphorous component (A) or the melamine-phosphorous compound (AB) [is] selected from a phosphate, a phosphinate [or] and a phosphonate.
8. (Amended) Composition according to [any one of Claims 1-7, characterized in that] Claim 7, wherein the component (B) or (AB) is selected from melamine, melamine cyanurate, melamine phosphate, melam, melem [or a mixture] and mixtures thereof is chosen as component (B) or (AB)].
9. (Amended) Polycondensate composition [that comprises] comprising the flame retardant composition according to [any one of Claims 1-8, characterized in that] Claim 1 and further comprising [the polycondensate is] a polyester or polyamide.
10. (Amended) Polycondensate composition according to Claim 9, [characterized in

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- an ethylene/acrylic ester/glycidyl methacrylate polymer; glass fibres; and
- a polyamide [chosen] selected from the group [comprising] consisting of polyamide-6, polyamide-6,6, and polyamide-4,6.

Claim 16 is cancelled.

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